**LiveOnNY Brings Community Together to Celebrate Organ Donor Heroes and the Power of Organ and Tissue Donation During Donate Life Month**

**New York, NY (April 1, 2022) –** Coming off the heels of the most successful year on record for organ donation in the greater New York City area, the New York Community will come together to celebrate Donate Life Month this April. The monthlong initiative will be led by LiveOnNY, the organ procurement organization for the greater New York City area, and will recognize the life-changing and life-enhancing power of organ, eye and tissue donation.

This Donate Life Month dozens of hospitals, transplant centers, elected officials and community partners will unite to honor the power of donation, encourage New Yorkers to sign up as organ donor heroes, and to recognize the selfless organ donors and their families who gave the gift of life and live on as heroes.

This year’s activities will be a mixture of in-person and virtual events as well as inspirational online stories and social media messages about this important cause. For the fifth straight year, Donate Life Month will culminate in an online, region-wide Moment of Gratitude on April 29 for organ donor heroes and their families.

“Donate Life Month is a time to celebrate the generosity of our organ donor heroes and their families,” said LiveOnNY President and CEO Leonard Achan, RN, MA, ANP. “Because of the precious gifts of life entrusted to us by organ and tissue donors and their families, LiveOnNY and our partners, which include over 100 hospitals and 11 world renowned transplant centers, were able to transplant more than 1,000 organs in 2021. Our community continues to improve, change and save lives every day because of the selfless New Yorkers who say ‘yes’ to organ and tissue donation. Every single one of them is a hero and lives on.”

New Yorkers near and far can participate in Donate Life Month by sharing messaging from LiveOnNY’s digital platforms throughout April. The organization’s social media channels will feature Donate Life Month photos and stories from across LiveOnNY’s service area. New Yorkers are encouraged to talk with their loved ones about their wish to donate and why it’s important to them.

In addition to raising awareness, the month also serves as a time for families to celebrate their loved ones who became life-saving organ donor heroes.

“Donate Life Month is an opportunity to honor my son Lukie whose final gift was donating his kidneys,” says donor mother Carmen Hanchard who will be participating in several events this month. “Lukie was always giving, so we honor him. He’s my silent hero. I am happy we donated his organs.”

Donate Life Month will once again close with a Moment of Gratitude in recognition of all the selfless organ and tissue donors and their families. LiveOnNY is asking all New Yorkers to pause for a moment on April 29, to pay tribute to the thousands of selfless donors who gave the gift of life. Hospitals, transplant centers, organ donation advocates, and others across the area will silently pause to recognize these lifesaving heroes. LiveOnNY will post its moment of gratitude ceremony on Facebook at 10 a.m. For more information on LiveOnNY, visit [www.LiveOnNY.org](http://www.LiveOnNY.org). To follow along on social media, please visit @LiveOnNewYork on Instagram, Twitter and Facebook.

**ABOUT LIVEONNY:**

LiveOnNY is a nonprofit, federally designated organ procurement organization (OPO) dedicated to saving lives, providing comfort, and strengthening legacies through organ, eye, and tissue donation. The OPO, which was established in 1978, serves a culturally and ethnically diverse population of 13 million residents in New York City, Long Island and the lower Hudson Valley. Working closely with transplant centers and hospitals, LiveOnNY coordinates organ, eye, and tissue donation for transplant, educates the public and healthcare professionals about donation and transplantation, and promotes the importance of signing up on the New York State Donate Life Registry.  LiveOnNY works closely with 11 transplant centers, nearly 100 hospitals, and several tissue and eye banks.  LiveOnNY is accredited by the Association of Organ Procurement Organizations (AOPO) and a member of the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS), which oversees the organ transplant waiting list in the U.S. For more information, please visit LiveOnNY.org.

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